WHIRRAKEE

August 2003 Vol. 24 No. 7

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
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Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34. These rates include GST.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers listed above, together with the following members: Barbara Pelczynska, Bob Ruddick, Maurie Stone, Stuart Fraser.

Excursions Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has two active sub-groups:

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizen Building.

Front Cover: Photographer: Clive Fisher

This photograph was taken 13 years ago at the Museum of Victoria. It shows a Tasmanian Tiger cub that was recovered from the pouch of a dead adult brought into the Museum in 1909. The then curator of mammals, Joan M. Dixon, who gave Clive permission to photograph this specimen, told him that in her youth in Tasmania, her uncle used to trap these animals....Incredible! Seeing this photograph and hearing this story makes it seem so recent since these magnificent marsupials were around...

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 24, No. 7, August 2003

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's note
You can tell it is spring out there as there are lots of articles and activities to report in the Whirrakee. This month we even had to hold one article by Elvyne Hogan about Ned's Corner over to the September issue. That's good news for me! I am also grateful to Clive Fisher who has been researching the Tasmanian Tiger and has supplied some excellent illustrations as well. What a fascinating topic, yet it grips you with a terrible sadness too....Thanks also to Matthew Comer who, in my absence, took over 'my job' as reporter of the monthly topic of the general meeting. Enjoy!

BFNC Spring Campout at Waanyarra (near Tarnagulla)

20th - 21st September 2003

details will appear in next month's *Whirrakee*.

In the meantime please contact Maurie Stone for more details (ph: 54477787)

Garden Working Bee

Saturday 16th August

9.00am - 12.30pm at the BFNC' garden at the clubrooms in Golden Square

The object of the morning's work is to plant new plants, weed and spread mulch.

Recent Bird Observations

Author; Bird Observers Group

Flame Robin (4 adult males and three brown birds), Neilborough - Eaglehawk Road near Neilborough, 20/6/03
(1 male) 2km north of Raywood, 15/6/03
Whistling Kite (3) 1 km south east of Kamarooka, 15/6/03
Barn Owl (1) flushed from peppercorn tree, 1km south east of Kamarooka, 15/6/03
Spotted Nightjar (1) William Perry Lane, Neilborough, 11/6/03
Banded Lapwing (8) Borough Road, 5km east of Raywood, 12/6/03
(18) same location, 20/6/03
Hardhead Duck (1) Tannery Lane, Mandurang (on dam), 2/7/03
Tawny Crowned Honeyeater (1) off Ham Street, Golden Square, 2/7/03
Grey Butcherbird (1) Sedgwick, 2/7/03
Speckled Warbler (2) Sedgwick, 25/5/03
Common Mynah (3) Long Gully, 10/6/03
(2) Neilborough, 11/6/03
(2) Sebastian, 18/6/03
(5) Woodvale, 18/6/03
(13) Raywood, 26/6/03
(2) Raywood, 3/7/03
(1) Sebastian, 3/7/03

Notes: The three Whistling Kites seen near Kamarooka were scruffy and ragged and thought, perhaps, to be young birds. The Tawny Crowned Honeyeater was observed in dense *Cassinia*, *Acacia* etc. regrowth at Bendigo Mining's Carshalton site. The Grey Butcherbird was not considered to be a regular visitor to this location at Sedgwick. More observation of the Common Mynah show just how widespread this pest has become.

Thylacines – in existence today?

Author: Clive Fisher

If someone asked me, "Have you ever seen a Tasmanian Tiger?" I would truthfully answer, "Yes, four". And if I was then asked,"Did you get any photographs?" I would then say, as truthfully as before, "Yes, I photographed the four of them". As I took the photograph in 1993, would this prove that the thylacine is still alive and kicking, or was so in that year? The answer is, "No, it wouldn't, because the thylacines in my photographs have been dead since 23 June, 1909". Let me explain.

In 1993, I saw a documentary on television showing four thylacine young, which had been extracted from a female's pouch in 1909, and were now at the Museum of Victoria. As the study of marsupials is a passion of mine, I rang the Curator of mammals at that institution, at that time, Joan M. Dixon, to inquire if these specimens were still held at the Museum. She informed me that they were. I then asked if I could go down to the museum to photograph them. Joan graciously gave me permission. My good friend Greg Doubleday lent me a suitable camera, and I travelled down and took the pictures. The photograph on the cover of this month's edition is one of them.

I have been fascinated with the thylacine since primary school days, and one of the things I remembered reading about is that it sometimes hopped on its hind legs like a kangaroo. As a young adult I read that this was a myth. However, I have lately researched the animal. Its hindquarters, including its tail, closely resemble that of the kangaroo, as shown in the photograph below of the 'last tiger' taken at Beaumaris Zoo, Hobart, in the early days of last century (Beresford and Bailey 1981, p.29). This in itself does not prove that it could hop, but I have come across some references stating that it did. One such reference comes from David Day (Day 1981, p.224). It goes: *'If pressed it broke into shambling canter, and could rise on its hind legs and hop if it encountered difficult obstacles'.*

Another reference is from Moeller: *From early film, Moeller (1968) notes that the animal has two modes of locomotion. The first of these is the plantar walk common to most mammals, and the second is a bipedal hop. The latter movement is remarkably like that of the kangaroo* (Moeller 1968 in Dixon 1989).

In Troughton, there is this reference: *In the history of Austral-Asia by R.M.Martin, published in London 1839, is the following reference: The legs are short in proportion to the body....in running it bounds like a kangaroo, though not with such speed. This overstates the case, however, in saying that hopping is the usual gait; it would only be used when desperately pressed* (Martin 1839 in Troughton 1967).

From these references we can see that it did hop sometimes.

Incidentally, I found what remains of the Beaumaris Zoo while walking round Hobart in September last year, though I was not looking for it, not knowing that it was still in existence.. As it is the place where the last captive thylacine died, I, of course, took some photographs, one of which appears on the next page.

We know that the last captive thylacine died on 7th September 1936 (Beresford and Bailey 1981, p.28). From these authors: *In the 1930s the Beaumaris Zoo was under the direct control of the Reserves Committee of the Hobart City Council and with the permission of the Council, a search of their proceedings now makes it possible to be positive about one fact - the tiger died on 7 September 1936. The full minute taken from the record of the Committee's meeting on 16 September reads:*

Beaumaris Zoo Tasmanian Tiger

The superintendent of Reserves reported that the Tasmanian tiger died on Monday evening last, 7th instant, and the body had been forwarded to the Museum. Noted. *Efforts to be made by Superintendent to obtain another tiger up to a value of thirty pounds each.*

Also from Dixon:

The Hobart Zoo received a specimen snared in the Florentine Valley in 1933. In 1936, the species was added to a list of wholly protected animals and in the same year, the last Thylacinus *died in the Hobart Zoo* (Dixon and Walton *et al.* 1989, p.550).

I found this misleading information on the thylacine from a website in 1999:

Persecuted as a sheep killer, they were systematically exterminated until the last wild one was shot in 1930. A captive specimen lived on at the now defunct Beaumaris Zoo until 7th September 1936 (Goodwin 1999).

The statement, 'the last wild one was shot in 1930' is erroneous, because plaster casts of definite thylacine footprints were taken from mud in the Jane River area south-east of frenchman's Cap by members of an expedition searching for thylacines. The expedition was led by Police Trooper Arthur L. Fleming, and the *original casts were deposited with the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, where they are still to be seen in the security of the Museum strongroom.* (Beresford and Bailey 1981, pp 31-32)

But Dixon's statement (Dixon in Walton and Richardson, p. 549) is more believable: "It was in 1930 that the last *Thylacinus* was killed in the wild in Tasmania". This suggests that the last recorded killing of a thylacine in the wild occurred that year, but leaves open the possibility that others were killed later without being recorded.

Since 1930, there have been many reports of thylacine sightings, not only in Tasmania, but in Victoria, South Australia,Western Australia and Queensland as well (Smith pp. 94-115). Many of these, of course, would be mistaken identity, and possibly some hoaxes. A report appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser as recently as October 9, 1991, when a casualty clerk driving to work two days previous had witnessed a striped animal moving up the Loddon Valley Highway in his headlight (Bendigo Advertiser 9 Oct, 1991, p.3). I don't believe this one was a hoax, because the gentleman was quite definite with what he saw, unless someone else painted stripes on a dog as a practical joke.

Before I visited Tasmania last year, I read a report in the Melbourne *Age* that the Tasmanian Premier, Jim Bacon, was hoping to acquire a century-old thylacine-skin rug from a family that had owned it since the 1930s (Derby 2002, p.3). But Friday 13th proved to be very lucky, I would even go as far as as to say - serendipitous - day for me. On that day I was in the Launceston Museum, and as I was about to leave,the desk attendant told me that the tiger skin rug was on display in their other

building on the other side of the river. I lost no time in crossing to the eastern side of the North Esk River to feast my eyes on this artefact. I gazed at it for some minutes in its glass case. This beautiful rug was made from eight adult thylacine skins sewn together. As the shoulder end of all the skins faced the same way, it possessed a certain symmetry. Skin of the head and tails was absent. The stripes stood out in detail,, because the family in whose possession it had been, had kept it away from light (Derby 2002, p.3).

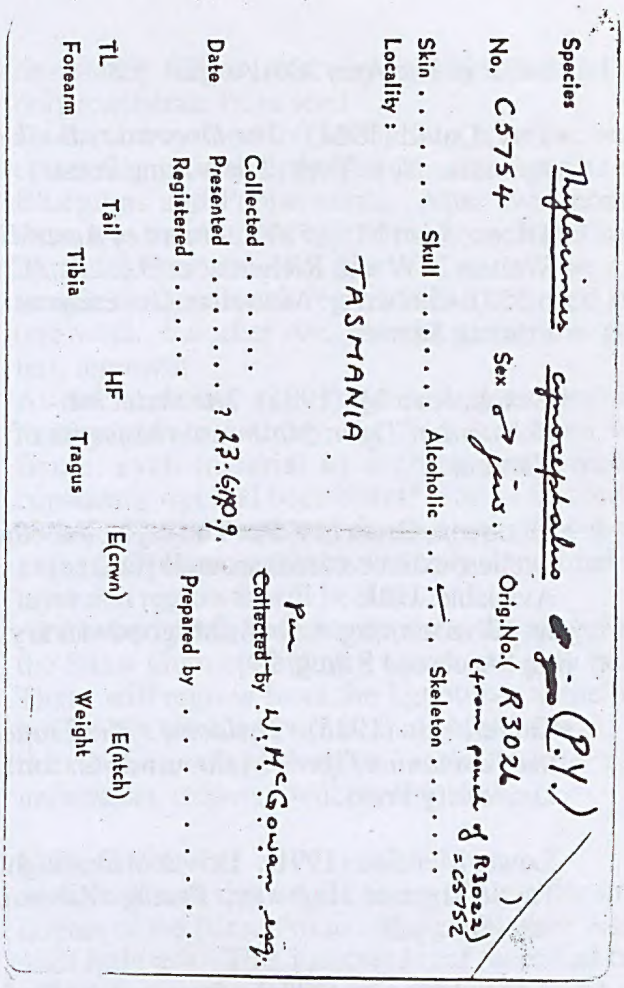
A week later, I again observed it in the Museum in Hobart, where it had been transported. Unfortunately the public were not permitted to photograph it, but I do have the photo that appeared in the *Age* article, so I have something other than a memory of it.

Angela Foster with the thylacine rug.

Going back to the four cubs I photographed in 1993: according to the cards referring to each one, which I also photographed, they all came from the one individual's pouch, which had been designated the number R3022, and the cubs had each been designated a different number. Also, on each cub's card, the name W. McGowan appears as the person who presented them to the Museum of Victoria. The card that belonged to the animal on the front page is shown on the right.

Who was W. McGowan? After some research recently, I found this passage in Col Bailey's book 'Tiger Tales':

In July 1886, Mr T.H.Cleary delivered a live Tasmanian tiger to the office of the Mercury newspaper in Hobart... Cleary had captured the three-parts grown seven days before on the east coast property of F. Dunbabin at Bream Creek. After arousing much interest in Hobart, the young male thylacine was forwarded by train to William McGowan at the Launceston City Park and caged in a specially built container (Bailey 2001, p.37)



Species Thylacinus cynocephalus (P.Y.)
No. C5754 Sex ♂ juv. Orig.No.(R3022 from pouch of R3022) =C5752
Skin ..... Skull ..... Alcoholic ..... Skeleton .....
Locality : TASMANIA
Collected ..... per Collected by W. McGowan esq.
Presented ..... ? 23.6.09.
Registered ..... Prepared by .....
TL Tail HF E(crwn) E(atch)
Forearm Tibia Tragus Weight

Could this person be the W. McGowan of the cards? Yes, but I would have to undertake more research before this could be ascertained. As for the Launceston City Park, I visited that last September, and can tell you that the only animals on display then were macaque monkeys!

There has been much written about the thylacine since the 1930s, when it was realised that as a viable species, it was in trouble. I believe that it is such a fascinating subject, a lot more will be written in the future.

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ZEN SALAD

An exhibition of botanical illustrations highlighting the beauty of mosses and other bryophytes
(bryophytes = mosses, liverworts & hornworts)

The title of the exhibition os drawn from the appreciation and culture of moss in Zen gardens for over 1000 years. Bryophytes may well have started out as invaders of simple, symbolic rock gardens, but they have grown on and become incorporated as a bit of Zen Salad, subtle enough to season the austerity of the dry rocks. Too often in Western gardens, mosses and other bryophytes have been regarded as weeds and, with a few notable exceptions, are rarely given a second glance, if they are tolerated at all.

In order to highlight the beauty and importance of this much overlooked group of plants, this exhibition is being held by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and the VII Australasian Bryophyte Workshop, as part of the joint Botanic Conference for the 150th Celebration of the National Herbarium of Victoria.

The bryophytes will be celebrated with a collection of exquisite, original artwork by some of Australasia's finest botanical illustrators, including Celia Rosser who illustrated "The Mosses of Southern Australia" before embarking on her monumental work on the genus *Banksia*. Many of the works have been produced specifically for this exhibition. The plants depicted are tiny, challenging subjects and the artwork exhibited is a credit to the skill and dedication of the artists. It is hoped that through their eyes the viewers of the illustrations will see these plants in a new light, both on the large and small scale, and recognise them as important contributors to the ecology of the diverse habitats they occupy, not only where they are obvious in the lush carpets they form in our wettest forests but also in the nearly invisible components of the soil crusts of the arid zone of Australia.

Celia Rosser will open the exhibition at a reception to be held on Monday 29th September 6.30pm until 8.30pm

Zen Salad Exhibition
Eastern Transit Room
Observatory Building, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
30th September until 12th October
Open: 10.00am until 4.30pm every day.

A gold coin donation would be appreciated, most work will be for sale.

August General Meeting:
'The recent bushfires in the Victorian Alps and the process of recovery.'
Speaker: Michael Angove

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by Matthew Comer

Dr Michael Angove, a chemist from LaTrobe university, has been working with Honours student Daniel Bennett, and colleague Sabine Wilkens, analysing the impact of fire residues on run-off water. Michael presented an interesting overview of the characteristics of bush fires which swept through the alpine region and their impact on soils and vegetation, including ongoing effects on recovery of burnt areas. He then detailed the research his team have carried out on fire residues and their effects on soils and water.

The fires which occurred in the alpine region last summer were very extensive. The Alpine National Park covers an area of around 600 000ha, of this, fires burnt through 400 000ha. Regions burnt include Mt Buffalo, Mt Feathertop, Mt Hotham, Bogong and around Dartmouth. The fires affected many vegetation types, including alpine and sub-alpine communities and even moist *Sphagnum* bogs.

This region is also Victoria's largest water catchment, directly affecting the Murray River. The Dartmouth Dam is a major water supply, filling the Hume Reservoir, then the Murray River. Michael observed that much debris has ended up in Dartmouth since the fires. Towns in the region also went onto stage 8 water restrictions after the fires because the water turned dark brown. The question posed by these researchers was: what happens to the water after a bush fire event like this?

To answer this question, two locations within the alpine region affected by the fires were studied. Mt Buffalo and Falls Creek. Samples of fire residues, e.g. ash, were taken at a number of points moving up the mountain at these two sites. Observations and slides were taken as well.

Mt Buffalo
At Mt Buffalo the fires were extensive. In Snow Gum communities, the crowns of the trees were burnt out. The Snow Gums only re-sprout from a lignotuber at the base, so recovery will be very slow. Alpine Ash communities were also devastated. These trees were mostly killed and will only regenerate from seed.
On the lower slopes of Mt Buffalo, after one week, epicormic growth appeared in some species e.g. Bluegums and Peppermints. After two months, there was much more epicormic growth and some ferns had re-sprouted. Further up, at the next sample site, not much regrowth had occurred after one week, but after two months, there was good fern regrowth.
At the next site, higher again, and moving into heathy granite country, the fires had been very fierce, even material in a creek line which is constantly wet had been burnt! Soil in this area is coarse granitic sand and doesn't usually support much vegetation so there was only a minimal ash layer and regrowth will be slow.
At the top of Mt Buffalo, opposite the ranger hut, the Snow Gum community was thoroughly burnt. These will regrow from the lignotuber at the base but do not have epicormic buds at the stems. As the soil is very shallow with granite rock underneath, recovery will be very slow.

Falls Creek
At Falls Creek there were many differences in the impact of the fires. Areas of bare soil were visible with little ash. This indicated that there had been severe fire storms which had blown away the ash. A thick ash layer indicates that the fire had been slow and less intense which was often the case at Mt Buffalo.
Michael explained that areas with a thick ash layer recover more quickly due to the nutrients contained in the ash whereas the areas at Falls Creek with little ash will take much longer to recover.
In addition to this, Mt Buffalo received 30mm of rain in the first week after the fires but Falls Creek only had 12 mm.
Higher up at Falls Creek Alpine Ash communities were mostly killed. Michael showed a gully which has water flowing through it all year and yet this was still burnt. Although Tree Ferns in this gully re-sprouted very well, blackberries also re-sprouted well, but other native plants were slower to re-sprout.
On the slopes of Falls Creek, erosion is also a big problem. In the hot fires which occurred here, much of the organic matter in the soil was burnt. This material holds the soil together, so once removed, it can lead to rapid erosion. Areas where soil has eroded and ash and other material washed or blown away will then be less suitable for Alpine Ash to regenerate from seed. At the top of Falls Creek the Snow Gums had all their crowns burnt

out. After one week, there was some regrowth from the lignotubers.

Interestingly, on the High Plains, the most severely burnt areas were the woody heaths which have been created by cattle selectively grazing out herbs and other plants. Some areas had been fenced in the 1970s to monitor vegetation changes associated with cattle grazing. The areas dominated more by herbaceous plants (daisies, succulents etc) had not burnt so severely.

Changes to soil after fire

Moving on to the research on fire residues and their effects on soil and water, Michael summarised the main changes which occur in soil after fire, these included:

- an increase in nutrients such as sodium, potassium, nitrogen, sulphur etc, the "ash bed effect"
- weakened soil structure leading to greater erosion. Ash can be washed or blown away
- Soil becomes hydrophobic - rain doesn't penetrate. The ash layer may be wet, but 2-3cm lower is dry. This is due to lots of carbon material in the ash on the surface and results in a restriction of water available to plants. It also means snow has less contact with the soil, making it more prone to sliding down slopes.
- In general fire residues increase pH levels in the soil (make it more alkaline)
- Over time this can be good for soil structure, it helps soil to aggregate, improving water infiltration and also provides nutrients for micro-organisms and plants.
- An electron microscope image of ash particles showed us that the particle are very small in size (made up mainly of burnt carbon material). A small particle size means that the ash is more prone to washing or blowing away.

Leaching from ash

Back at the University, experiments were conducted with the ash samples gathered to see what residues come from the ash particles over time. 10g samples of ash in beakers of water were stirred for three weeks and periodically sampled e.g. at 1 hour, 1 day, 1 week etc. The concentration of residues (humic materials) was measured. It was found that high levels of humic materials leach from the ash particles. Charcoal was found to leach less material due to its bigger particle size. It was also found that pH levels affect leaching rates. Higher pH increase leaching over time as compounds become more soluble.

This has important implications, because when humic materials get into water, different chemical reactions can occur. For example, in town water supplies, if chlorines are used, the chlorine particles can bond with the humic materials creating toxic compounds. The humic materials also make the water look brown and un-inviting. The humic materials can be filtered out or left for biological processes to gradually break them down. Water supply authorities have had therefore to be more careful about using chlorine and test the water more thoroughly, or change filters more frequently.

The fires which ravaged the alpine regions obviously had far reaching effects on the landscape and presented many new problems and challenges to be faced in the recovery process. It was good to be given an insight into their research and monitoring which is so important. Hopefully there will be much more similar research carried out to learn more from this extraordinary event.

Victorian Launch of the revised edition of 'What Seed is that?'

A field guide to the identification, collection, germination and establishment of native plant species for central southern Australian landscapes by Neville Bonney

Date: 18th August 2003

Time: 12.30 - 2.30pm

Place: Bendigo Library, Campbell Theatrette, Hargreaves Street, Bendigo (next to Town Hall)

Other speakers include:
David Millsom, natural resource management consultant
Christine Gartlan, Ballarat Regional Seed Bank
Jim Robinson, Greening Australia

The book will be available for purchase at the launch.

For further information contact Adrian Martins on ph: 0427 099376To RSVP, contact the NCCMA on
Ph: 54487124
or email: julie_bennett@nccma.vic.gov.au

F.N.C.V.

Est. 1880

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria — Biodiversity Symposium

BURNING ISSUES—FIRE IN SOUTH EASTERN AUSTRALIA

Venue: University of Melbourne, Architecture Building 133
Prince Philip Theatre, Swanston Street PARKVILLE (Mel: 571 F11)
Time: Sunday September 14, 9.30am—4pm

The aim of the symposium is to facilitate informed discussion and debate on the management of fire in our environment. The symposium will bring together experts and practitioners to discuss the importance of fire.

Speakers include:

David Cheal—Manager Fire Ecology Research, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) — **Plant Responses to Fire.**

Gordon Friend—Manager Terrestrial Biodiversity, Biodiversity and Natural Resources Division, DSE- **Fire Impacts on Fauna.**

Mike Leonard, Manager, Strategic Planning Fire Management (DSE) - **Managing Fire in Victoria's Parks and Forests.**

Dianne Simmons, Senior Lecturer, School of Ecology and Environment, Deakin University - **On the Edge: How well do bushfire mitigation strategies work on the urban fringe?**

Kevin Tolhurst , Senior Lecturer, Fire Ecology and Management, University of Melbourne, Creswick — Fire behaviour in relation fire management and fire history.

Additional speakers awaiting confirmation. Our program of speakers will be followed by an afternoon forum. We will also screen **"The Hand of Man",** a historical gem, documenting the 1939 bushfires

More information contact our office 9877 9860 fncv@vicnet.net.au

F.N.C.V.

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. are proudly presenting a symposium

BURNING ISSUES - Fire in South Eastern Australia

Sunday September 14 2003

University of Melbourne
Prince Philip Theatre
9.30AM—4PM

Reg. No. A0033G1X

Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
Ph/Fax: 9877 9860 Email: fncv@vicnet.net.au
Web: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~fncv

Portland Field Naturalists' Camp Inc
Spring Campout 2003

Venue – Cape Bridegwater Holiday Camp
10 - 12th October 2003

Members of the Portland Field Naturalist' Club Inc are delighted to invite fellow field naturalists affiliated with the VFNCA to attend the Spring Campout to be hosted by our club on Friday October 10th through to Sunday the 12th 2003.

Venue facilities and accommodation will be located at the Cape Bridgewater Holiday Camp overlooking magnificent Bridgewater Bay near Portland.
It is envisaged that a number of activities will be on offer including field trips to look at our wonderful spring wildflowers and terrestrial orchids, as well as trips to view the nearby seal colony at Cape Bridgewater, Mt Richmond National Park, Cape Nelson State Park, Swan Lake – Discovery Bay Coastal Park, as well as the Australian Gannet colony at Point Danger and some of our wonderful scenery.

Activities
Saturday 11th October 2003

- Full day orchid tour:

Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association

PERSONAL RECORD FORM IN CASE OF ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS
These forms are to be lodged with the Campout Organiser for each campout in a sealed self-addressed envelope and be collected at the end of the campout. Any envelopes not collected will be destroyed by campout hosts.

NAME: _____.

ADDRESS: _____.

PHONE NO. _____.

GROUP OR FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB _____.

CONTACT PERSON: _____ PHONE NO: _____.

RELATIONSHIP TO ABOVE: _____.

SECOND CONTACT PERSON : _____ PHONE NO: _____.

RELATIONSHIP TO ABOVE: _____.

DOCTOR: _____ PHONE NO: _____.

ALLERGIES: _____.

PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITION: _____.

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ANY SPECIFIC FIRST AID _____.

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Portland Field Naturalists Club Inc:

October Campout 2003 --Cape Bridgewater Coastal Camp

Friday 10th October to Sunday 12th October 2003

BOOKING FORM

Name (s) _____

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss Ms/Mr & Mrs/ Other _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone No. Home _____ Mobile _____

E-Mail _____

Club Name _____

Please complete one of the appropriate columns below :- ie **Accomodation and catering for the weekend will cost you $120**

Full catering and accommodation $60 per day	Full Catering only: $50 per day
Number of participants _____	Number of participants _____
Less Deposit _____ $20 per person	Less deposit $ 20
Amount payable _____ $	Amount payble $

Final payment due on or before 1st September 2003

Do you need a bottom bunk? Yes / No

With whom you would like to share a room? _____

Please complete this form and send, with deposit or full payment payable to,

Michael Davies ph 55~~23~~ 2131
Treasurer, PFNC 55223454 OR 55234 Deq
P.O. Box 470
Portland Victoria 3305

further enquiries contact Ruth Graney ph 5529 5335

Any extension to your stay must be arranged privately with camp operators
Darren & Jenny Lewis. phone 03 55 267 267

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Guest Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings 2003
Second Wednesday 8:00 pm

Please check each **WHIRRAKEE** for additional events or changes.
If a workshop is planned, it will start at 7:00pm. The speaker will be introduced at 8:00 pm.
If there is no workshop, the general meeting will start at 7:30pm, with the speaker being introduced at 8:00pm.

Date - 2001	Topic	Speaker
August 13	'Recognition and conservation of sites of geological significance': (examples from the Bendigo region; alpine Australia and the Newer Volcanic Province).	Neville Rosengren
September 10	AGM: 'Ups & downs of BFNC's Conservation campaigns'- A biased and selective Report Card of some of our Club's activities.	
October 8	'Classification of Threatened Fauna in Victoria - definition & assessment of 'Threatened Fauna'; what it means to be on the list.'	Peter Menkhost (Arthur Rylah Institute)
November 12	'The importance of Environmental Flows in rivers, streams and wetland areas.'	Paul Sinclair (Environment Victoria)
December 10	Christmas Dinner 'Birds of the Box-Ironbark Forest'	Chris Tzaros

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meeting

Wednesday, August 13 7.30pm

Neville Rosengren will talk about 'Recognition and conservation of sites of geological significance': (examples from the Bendigo region; alpine Australia and the Newer Volcanic Province).

Bird Observers Group
This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. Please confirm with Kerrie Norris (ph 54478017)

Fauna Group
This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The next meetings are on:

Wednesday, August 27
Rob and Cynthia Watkins will show some of their slides taken before required to evacuate from Mt. Hotham during January bushfires. General discussion related to habitat and fauna issues will follow, with participants invited to contribute.

Wednesday, September 2
A.G.M. and *Show and Tell (Dead or alive, animal, mineral or vegetable)* Participants are invited to bring along something relevant to fauna, that interests them to share and discuss.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

BFNC Spring Campout at Waanyarra (near Tarnagulla)

20th - 21st September 2003

details will appear in next month's *Whirrakee*.

In the meantime please contact Maurie Stone for more details (ph: 54477787)

Garden Working Bee

Saturday 16th August

9.00am - 12.30pm at the BFNC' garden at the clubrooms in Golden Square

The object of the morning's work is to plant new plants, weed and spread mulch.

Know your frog
The following sites both refer specifically to the Victorian frog fauna:

http://www.frogs.org.au/frogs/ is based closely upon the Frogwatch Field guide to Victorian Frogs. It has great information--photos, maps, keys, and pie charts to depict seasonal activity.

http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/collections/showcase.asp takes you to the showcase page at the Museum of Victoria. This site has links to accounts of other Victorian fauna besides frogs, including a great links to the butterflies and reptiles of Victoria. This site has bigger photos of the frogs than the other site, and longer call bites (taken from the Frogwatch tape, with introductions by Murray Littlejohn), but the sound can be slow to load up.